

Appl. No. 10/824,889
Amdt. dated ~~18~~ February 2006
Reply to Office action of 10/05/2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7, 11, 14-17, and 27-39 are pending

Claims 2, 28, 33-35, 38 and 39 are currently cancelled

Claims 1, 3-7, 11, 14-17, 27, 29-32, 36 and 37 are currently amended,

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently amended) An animal toe-nail sheath for encasing a portion of an animal's claw comprising a molded polymeric cap having an open upper end and a closed lower end, an external claw shape and an internal cavity extending from said ~~An animal toenail covering having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape defining a pliable sheath generally open end having a shape consistent with that of an animal's toenail~~ animal claw, said polymeric sheath comprising an external coating of polymer encompassing at least a portion of said polymeric sheath defining a surrounding wall having a greater density at said lower end than at said upper end.
2. (canceled) The animal toenail covering according to claim 1 wherein said external coating of polymer has—a hardness greater than that of said polymeric sheath.

3. (Currently amended) The animal toe ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 1 wherein said ~~polymeric sheath and said external coating of polymer~~ are different colors lower end of said surrounding wall is a different color than said upper end .
4. (Currently amended) The animal toe nail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 1 wherein said ~~polymeric sheath further comprises internal anticline cleats~~ internal cavity comprises a plurality of raised peaks .
5. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 1 wherein said ~~polymeric sheath further comprises a partial delamination between said polymeric sheath and a portion of said external coating of polymer~~ lower end of said surrounding wall is comprised of at least two surrounding layers having a void between two of said surrounding layers .
6. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein said ~~polymeric sheath~~ internal cavity further comprises at least an ~~one~~ adhesive element.
7. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive element is a liquid adhesive inserted ~~between~~ within said ~~polymeric sheath and said external coating of polymer~~ void .

8. (Canceled) The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel cap containing an adhesive located at said opening to said polymeric sheath.
9. (Canceled) The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel cap containing an adhesive activation agent.
10. (Canceled) The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said pliable gel cap is a wax cap containing an adhesive paste
11. (Currently amended) The animal toenail covering sheath according to claim 1 wherein said internal cavity further comprising comprises a textured inner wall surface.
12. (Canceled)_The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is an adhesive paste applied to a removable film tab applied to said opening of said polymeric sheath.
13. (Canceled) The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with said polymer formulation used to form said polymeric sheath.

14. (Currently amended)–The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath –according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive element is an adhesive powder.

15. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath –according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive element is an aerosol.

16. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 14 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to tooling used in a dip molding process for forming said polymeric sheath.

17. (Currently amended) The animal toenail ~~covering~~ sheath according to claim 1 6 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to said tooling by electrostatic means.

18. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath; and
- c) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

1 9. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) applying an adhesive means by spraying interior of said polymeric sheath with an atomized adhesive; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

20. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

- c) activating said adhesive means by manually manipulating said polymeric sheath thereby rupturing a reservoir membrane located within said polymeric sheath; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

21. (Canceled)—a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements into said polymeric sheath; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

22. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;

- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements directly onto said animal's toenail; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

23. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive powder means adhered to the inside walls of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent directly onto said animal's toenail; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

24. (Canceled) the method according to claim 23 further including the step of electrostatically depositing said adhesive powder with said polymeric sheath.

25. (Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent on to said animal's toenail; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

26.(Canceled) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's

toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

- c) activating said adhesive means by removing a covering from said polymeric sheath thereby, exposing said adhesive means;
- d) manipulating said polymeric sheath in a manual manner that spreads said adhesive to areas adjacent said opening; and
- e) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A polymeric~~ An animal toenail covering sheath, for encasing a portion of an animal claw comprising a molded polymeric cap having an external claw shape, an open proximate end and a closed distal end, an internal cavity extending from said open end towards said closed end having a shape consistent with that of an animal claw said cavity defining a first surrounding wall and an external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal toenail for incasing an animal toenail said sheath comprising and an external coating of polymer surrounding the greater portion of said distal end having a hardness greater than that of said first surrounding wall encompassing at least a portion of said sheath.

28. (Cancelled) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said external coating has a greater hardness than said covering.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric animal toenail covering~~ sheath according to claim 27 wherein said external coating is a different color than said ~~sheath~~ first surrounding wall .

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric animal toenail covering~~ sheath according to claim 27 wherein ~~said coating is applied to said sheath in manner whereby a void is formed between said coating and a portion of said~~ sheath first surrounding wall .

31. (Currently Amended) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said sheath comprises a plurality of pliable anticline ~~cleats~~ ridges located within said internal cavity ~~protruding inwardly~~.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A polymeric~~ An animal toenail covering sheath for encasing the claw portion of an animal said sheath having a pliable polymeric cap having an exterior claw shaped surface, an opening at the proximate end of said cap tapering towards the distal end defining a cavity therein consistent with that of an animal claw said cavity further defining a wall thickness comprised of a plurality of coatings surrounding said cavity said wall tapering from a greater thickness and hardness at said distal end to a lesser thickness and harness at said proximate end. ~~closed distal end and a open proximate end said covering having an internal cavity and a external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal toenail for telescopically encasing an animal toenail said sheath comprising a non-~~

~~uniform wall thickness having a greater thickness at said distal end than at said proximate end.~~

33. (canceled) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 32 wherein said non-uniform wall thickness is a lamination of layers.

34. (cancelled) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 33 wherein said lamination of layers comprises an outer layer having a hardness greater than any sub-layer.

35. (cancelled) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 33 further comprising a void located between said layers.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymeric animal toenail covering~~ sheath according to claim ~~34~~ 32 wherein said wall thickness is comprised of at least two different colored polymers ~~outer layer is a different color than that of said sub-layer.~~

37. (Curently Amended) The ~~polymeric animal toenail covering~~ sheath according to claim 32 further comprising a plurality of ~~antiline~~ -shaped flexible gripping elements located within said cavity pointing towards said distal end.

38. (cancelled) A polymeric animal toenail sheath having an exterior surface and a rectangular opening to an interior cavity both exterior surface and said interior cavity defining a pliable sheath having a general shape consistent with that of an animal toenail said sheath defining a telescopic relationship over an animal toenail ,encasing and providing protection there from, said sheath comprising a polymeric overlay conforming to said general shape of said exterior surface.

39. (cancelled) The Polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 38 wherein said overlay is a different material composition than said sheath.